Glo. I know not whether to depart in ſilence.
Or bitterly to ſpeake in your reproofe,
Beſt fitteth my degree or your condition:
Your loue deſerues my thankes, but my deſert
Vnmeritable ſhunnes your high requeſt.
Firſt if all obſtacles were cut away,
And that my path were euen to the crowne,
As my right reuenew and due by birth,
Yet ſo much is my pouertie of ſpirit,
So mightie and ſo many my defects,
As I had rather hide me from my greatneſſe,
Being a Barke to brooke no mightie ſea,
Then in my greatneſſe couet to be hid.
And in the vapour of my glory ſmothered:
But God be thanked theres no need for me,
And much I need to helpe you if need were,
The royall tree hath left vs royall fruite,
Which mellowed by the ſtealing houres of time,
Will well become the ſeate of maieſtie;
And make no doubt vs happie by his raigne,
On him I lay what you would lay on me:
The right and fortune of his happie ſtarres,
Which God defend that I ſhould wring frō him.
Buc. My lord, this argues cōſcience in your grace,
But the reſpects thereof are nice and triuiall,
All circumſtances well conſidered.
You ſay that Edward is your brothers ſonne,
So ſay we too, but not by Edwards wife:
For firſt he was contract to Lady *Lucy*,
Your mother liues, a witneſſe to that vow,
And afterward by ſubſtitute betrothed
To *Bona*, ſiſter to the king of *France*,
Theſe both put by a poore petitioner,
A care-crazd mother of many children,
A beauty-waining and diſtreſſed widowe,
Euen in the afternoone of her beſt dayes,
Made priſe and purchaſe of his luſtfull eye,
Seduc't the pitch and height of all his thoughts,

To baſe declenſion and
By her in his vnlawfull
This *Edward*, whom our
More bitterly could I ex
Saue that for reuerence t
I giue a ſparing limit to
Then good my Lord, tak
This proffered benefit o
If not to bleſſe vs and th
Yet to draw out your ro
From the corruption of
Vnto a lineall true deriu
Mai. Do good my L
Cat. O make them jo
Glo. Alas, why would
I am vnfit for ſtate and d
I do beſeech you take it
I cannot, nor I will not
Buc. If you refuſe it as
Loth to depoſe the child
As well we know your t
And gentle kind effemin
Which we haue noted in
And egally indeed to all
Yet whether you accept
Your brothers ſonne ſha
But we will plant ſome o
To the diſgrace and dow
And in this reſolution he
Come Citizens, zounds
Clo. O do not ſweare
Cat. Call them again
Ano. Do, good my L
Glo. Would you enfo
Well, call them againe, I
But penetrable to your k
Albeit againſt my conſci
Coſen of Buckingham, a

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22316) LONDON, 1602 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34